

English grammar

Mixed conditionals

There are four basic types of conditional sentences in the English language. Each type has two parts - the main clause and the if clause.

Zero conditional: *I take my umbrella if it rains.*

First conditional: *I'll call you if I work late.*

Second conditional: *If the bus didn't arrive on time, I would drive you to the airport.*

Third conditional: *She wouldn't have come if I hadn't invited her.*

Mixed conditionals

In the mixed conditional sentences we can combine the second and third conditional.

If he had left immediately, he would be here now.

(He didn't leave immediately and isn't here.)

If I had studied hard when I was young, I wouldn't be a porter now.

(I didn't study and I am a porter.)

If we hadn't told him the way while he was preparing for his journey, he would get lost now.

(We told him and he isn't lost.)

Inverted conditionals

We can also make mixed conditional sentences by changing the word order in the if clause.

Had he booked the hotel room in time, he wouldn't sleep at the camp now.

(If he had booked ...)

This form is less common, quite formal and is mostly used in writing.

Note

If is the most frequent expression in the if clauses, but other expressions are also possible.

I would be here tonight even if you had not invited me.

We couldn't have this lecture provided that Mrs. Jones had gone to Paris.

I wouldn't be hungry now on condition you had made the dinner.

Mixed conditional exercises:

www.e-grammar.org/conditional-mixed-exercises-pdf/

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.